

COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

SPEECH OF

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, while the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] and I seldom agree on issues, we are apparently in agreement that more resources and effort must be committed to law enforcement in The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It is my strong recommendation that additional funds be transferred to the appropriate category for use in adding an additional Assistant U.S. Attorney to be stationed in the NMI. It is the obligation of the Federal Government to ensure that Federal laws are enforced in the Commonwealth. The addition of an Assistant U.S. Attorney will provide needed support to enforce Federal criminal law. I hope the Chairman [Mr. ROGERS] will include language in the managers statement to this effect.

In a report prepared under Mr. MILLER's supervision and published in April of this year by the minority staff of the House Resources Committee, it is alleged that in the past 5 years there are 27 documented examples of failure to prosecute violations in the CNMI. Of these, 21 were either in the exclusive or concurrent jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Labor, the National Labor Relations Board, the U.S. Attorney's Office or other U.S. Departments. Only six were within the exclusive jurisdiction of the CNMI. Mr. MILLER's report was a scathing denunciation of the CNMI but contained no similar rebuke of the Federal agencies who had jurisdiction over the majority of abuses he cites. I am pleased to see his recognition of the need for Federal attention to Federal problems in the CNMI.

While this may be a proper forum to take this first small step, it is not the forum to address the larger questions of Federal responsibility in the CNMI. The committee of jurisdiction is the Resources Committee. It is my understanding that my good friend from Alaska, Mr. YOUNG, chairman of the Resources Committee, will lead a delegation to that area in January. I strongly suggest that the gentleman from California, who is the ranking member of that Committee join the chairman on that trip. Hopefully, he will be persuaded—as I was after my visit there—that while there are some problems in that area—which voluntarily became a part of America 21 years ago—those problems are not insurmountable. I believe this cooperation will yield much more readily to reasoned solutions than the impassioned rhetoric heard on the House floor.

THE ATP PROGRAM

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 1997

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the ATP Program is important to our economy because it facilitates a partnership between research and commercialization. ATP's mission is that technology should bene-

fit the U.S. economy. As a result, ATP's sole aim is to develop high-risk, potentially high-payoff enabling technologies that otherwise would not be pursued because of obstacles and risks that discourage private investments.

This partnership is crucial to the private sector because it gives them the opportunity to succeed without crippling risks that may preempt them from marketing necessary technological patents. ATP is industry driven—research priorities are set by the industry, not the Government. This enables organizations to share costs, risks, and technology expertise in competitive research and development projects.

Partnership programs like the ATP Program help bridge the gap between the lab bench and the marketplace, and help spawn new innovations and industries. This freedom allows researchers and industry to work together toward a common goal. ATP works through rigorous, open competition and is accessible to all businesses. This has proven to be an effective mechanism for motivating companies to look farther out onto the technology horizon. In addition, ATP is a competitive, peer-reviewed, cost-shared program.

In closing, ATP-sponsored research fuels economic growth by introducing future products and industrial processes. I fully support the ATP Program because disabling this program would discourage research and development which is key to strengthening our economy and international commerce.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 1997

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 25, 1997 due to illness, I was granted a leave of absence and therefore unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No. 438 "no," Rollcall No. 439 "yes," Rollcall No. 440 "no," Rollcall No. 441 "yes," Rollcall No. 442 "yes," Rollcall No. 443 "yes," Rollcall No. 444 "no," Rollcall No. 445 "no," Rollcall No. 446 "yes," Rollcall No. 447 "no."

Rollcall No. 448 "no," Rollcall No. 449 "no," Rollcall No. 450 "no," Rollcall No. 451 "yes," Rollcall No. 452 "yes," Rollcall No. 453 "no," Rollcall No. 454 "no," Rollcall No. 455 "yes," Rollcall No. 456 "yes".

END LOGGING ROAD SUBSIDIES
NOW**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as conferees representing the House and Senate go to conference to resolve differences between each Chamber's version of the Interior appropriations bill, I urge my colleagues on the conference committee to put an end to the use of taxpayer subsidies for the construction of logging roads in our national forests.

The Federal Government spends millions of dollars each year subsidizing the construction

of logging roads in our national forests. These roads' only purpose is to allow loggers to cut more trees. It is time to end this fiscally wasteful and environmentally destructive subsidy of the timber industry.

Our national forests represent a major portion of some of the last remaining untouched forest in this country. Regrettably, the U.S. Forest Service continues to spend \$90 million each year to build logging roads deep into these forests so that timber companies can chop down these precious resources. These needless corporate subsidies also carry with them very detrimental environmental consequences. I know of absolutely no reason why we should continue the construction of these roads.

Logging roads cut through precious habitats of fish and wildlife, including many threatened and endangered species. The construction of these roads has had a devastating impact upon habitat, water quality, and wildlife population. Road construction has also increased the risk of landslides, erosion, and siltation of streams.

In July, the House voted on the Porter-Kennedy amendment to the Interior Appropriations Act of 1998, which would prevent further destruction of our Nation's Federal forests, including old growth forests which remain on public land. The vote to abolish this subsidy came within only two votes of passing the House. A secondary amendment, however, cut the subsidy in half.

Mr. Speaker, it is not often that we have a chance to enhance environmental protection while at the same time reducing the Federal budget deficit and finally putting an end to an unnecessary corporate subsidy. Soon, the House-Senate conference committee will make a decision about the inclusion of the logging road subsidy. I urge the conferees to eliminate purchaser credits and eliminate the appropriation for timber roads. We do not need any new taxpayer subsidized logging roads in our national forests.

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 1997

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would express the sense of the House that the country ought to give itself a pat on the back for its progress in recycling. I am joined in this effort by Mr. PORTER, Mr. GEJDENSON and Mr. GILCHREST, and I am proud to have them as partners in this worthy effort.

This resolution would suggest that the House believes it appropriate that a national celebration of "America Recycles Day" be observed by States and localities. This would be a day to celebrate the progress the country has made in establishing and integrating recycling programs in each State, in hundreds of cities, in thousands of communities.

Whether it be the simple act of depositing an old Coke can in an aluminum recycling bin, or meticulously separating brown glass from green glass from clear glass and hauling them all down to the city recycling center, it is clear that Americans have learned that recycling is a valuable means of conserving resources,